



ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

Claims Conference Holocaust Survivor Memoir Collection

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Detailed Description of Persecution

When the German army (Nazis) occupied my home town of Sokolow Podlaski, Poland in 1939, I went into hiding in the ghetto. The Nazis abused the Jews. They beat people and shot many of them. They made life miserable for Jews so that we could not go out on the street. They robbed everything out of homes and stores and sent it back to Germany. They took my brother Fishel prisoner. They raped Jewish women including my fiancée at the time Frieda Altman. Ghetto life was miserable. There was no food and we were always afraid of being found and beat up or killed.

I ran away with my fiancée in May 1941, when we left Poland and ran away to Bialystok, Russia. We were married in Bialystok on June 2, 1941. We then went to Crimea (Saky region; Kolkhoz; and Politadelec). When the German army took Crimea in October 1941, we left the Kolkhoz (collection farm) where we were hiding and went to Baku in Azerbaijan. It took us three months to walk there, running away from the German army the whole time. They were by then way behind us.

We were in Azerbaijan until Russia took back Crimea from the Germans in 1944. The Russians sent us back to Crimea where we stayed from 1944 to March 1946. In March 1946, we went back to Poland. I finally returned to Sokolow Podlaski, Poland to look for my home and family in May 1946. All my brothers and sisters that I had left and my mother had been sent to their deaths on a death march to Treblinka.

Siblings

1. Brother, Feldman, Fischel, Felman, Born - 1911, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
2. Sister, Feldman, Sarah, Felman, Born - 1923, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
3. Brother, Feldman, Moses, Felman, Born - 1926, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland, Date and Place of Death - 1942, Treblinka, Poland.
4. Sister, Schwarcbord, Rose, Felman, Maiden Name - Feldman, Born - 1914, Birth Place - Sokolow Podlaski, Poland.

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3. Residence at the beginning of persecution: / Wohnort bei Beginn der Verfolgung:

Place / Ort

Country / Land

Since when / seit wann

Sokolow Podlaski

Poland

1939

4. Where were you during period of persecution: / Aufenthalt während der Verfolgung:

	From / von	To / bis	Type of persecution (KZ, Ghetto, life in hiding, life under conditions resembling imprisonment) Please state precisely: / Art der Verfolgung (KZ, Ghetto, versteckt gelebt, Leben unter haft-ähnlichen Bedingungen) bitte genau angeben:	Place of persecution within the indicated time periods: / Ort der Verfolgung im genannten Zeitabschnitt:
1.	Sept. 1939	May 1941	Ghetto, Life in hiding	Sokolow Podlaski, Poland
2.	May 1941	June 1941	Life in hiding - Paid a Polish man to take me over the River Bug to Russiannside.	Sokolow Podlaski, Poland
3.	June 1941	Oct. 1941	Lived in Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Saky Region	Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Saky Region, Crimea
4.	Oct. 1941	March 1944	After German occupation of Crimea, fled to Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan, Russia
5.	March 1944	March 1946	Lived in Crimea, Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Krimea	Kolkhoz, Politadelec, Crimea
6.	March 1946	June 1946	Refugee	Kamenia-Gora, Poland
7.	June 1946	Oct. 1949	Displaced persons Camp	Linz-Wels, Austria

5. All countries of residence after persecution until today: / Alle Wohnländer nach der Verfolgung bis heute:

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

USA

1949

Current

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

Country / Land

From / von

To / bis

When and where were they married?

German troops entered our town, Sokolow Podlaski, Poland on September 20, 1939.

I, Frieda Altman, was huddling, frightened with family and friends in a shelter, when three Gestapo soldiers came in with guns in their hands. They forced me and two girls to go out to the back of the building. There they raped us at gunpoint. I did not think my fiance, Mendel Feldman would still want to marry me after that. But Mendel understood.

I, Mendel Feldman, came the following day to visit Frieda and she cried. Tell me the whole story, what happened with the Gestapo yesterday. She was in a room with 100 women, at night. Three Gestapo came in with guns and took out Frieda with two girlfriends and raped them at gunpoint. So I, Mendel Feldman, told Frieda that I will plan the escape to the Russians because they will come every night. I rented a horse and buggy from Polish people and they took us over the river Bug to the Russians sent us to Siberia but we survived the Second World War.

I told my mother: I will go with Frieda to the Russians. She told me: You bring Frieda to me and I will bless you. My mother told me: Don't marry any other woman. Only Frieda Altman Feldman. I took Frieda, her mother, her sister and sister's boyfriend to the Russian's side. They all survived the war, thanks to me.

